

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA DIVISION**

THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
CONFERENCE OF THE NAACP, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THOMAS C. ALEXANDER, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:21-cv-03302-JMC-TJH-RMG

**JOINT REQUEST TO EXTEND NEGOTIATION UNTIL MARCH 4, 2022 AND TO
APPOINT UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE MARY GORDON BAKER AS
MEDIATOR**

Plaintiffs and State House Defendants jointly ask that the Panel extend the parties' two-week settlement period until Friday, March 4, 2022 so that Plaintiffs and House Defendants can mediate part of the case with United States Magistrate Judge Mary Gordon Baker on March 1-2, 2022. In support thereof, counsel states the following:

1. On February 15, 2022 the Plaintiffs and State House Defendants requested a two-week pause of litigation to focus on resolving the case by settlement. The Panel granted this request. ECF 167, 170.
2. On February 17, 2022 the Plaintiffs and State House Defendants met virtually to discuss settlement. Although the meeting was productive, the Plaintiffs and State House Defendants agreed that enlisting the aid of a neutral mediator would improve the possibility of resolving the claims concerning the State House map.
3. After conferring, the Plaintiffs and State House Defendants agreed to United States Magistrate Judge Mary Gordon Baker as a neutral mediator. Counsel has contacted Judge Baker, who represented that she is willing to act as mediator, but because of her duty schedule, she is not available until March 1, 2022.

4. The Plaintiffs, State House Defendants, counsel, and Judge Baker are all available for mediation on March 1-2, 2022.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiffs and State House Defendants jointly request that the Panel appoint United States Magistrate Judge Mary Gordon Baker as a neutral mediator in this matter and, for good cause, extend the settlement window until March 4, 2022. The Plaintiffs and State House Defendants also ask that the Panel extend the deadline for their status report until March 7, 2022.

Dated: February 18, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mark C. Moore

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* Motion for admission *Pro Hac Vice* forthcoming

** Admitted *Pro Hac Vice*